

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE MAMMAL SURVEY.

No. XXXV.

TWO NEW RODENTS FROM THE MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO.

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Among the Mammals collected by Mr. C. Primrose in the Mergui Archipelago for the Bombay Natural History Society there are examples of the two following new species:—

Petaurista mergulus, sp. n.

Allied to *P. cineraceus*, Bly., but very much smaller.

Size, as gauged by skull, conspicuously less than in *cineraceus*. Colours essentially as in that animal, or at least as in the non-rufous specimens of it, for there is much variation in *cineraceus* as regard the presence or absence of rufous on the head and limbs. Back grizzled greyish brown with a slight olivaceous suffusion, the grey tips to the hairs not so conspicuous as in *cineraceus*. Undersurface greyish white, the hairs whitish with their bases more or less grey; chin and throat browner. Face greyer and less olivaceous than back. Eyes with inconspicuous blackish rings. Ears not very long, their proectote short-haired, grizzled brownish white. Posterior part of outer surfaces (metectote) with long black hairs, which extend back on to the sides of the neck, and form a conspicuous post-aural black tuft. Fur on nape and across shoulders often with a rufous or fulvous tinge, but there is much variation in this respect. Upper surface of parachute washed with olivaceous. Hands and feet black. Tail grizzled hoary grey, the extreme tip inconspicuously blackish.

Skull in general shape as in *cineraceus*, but much smaller; the bullæ also disproportionally smaller.

Dimensions of the type, measured in flesh:—

Head and body 410 mm.; tail 400; hindfoot 70; ear 37.

Skull, greatest length 66·7 (in *cineraceus* 78·7); condylo-incisive length 62·2; zygomatic breadth 45; nasals 20 × 13·5; interorbital breadth 13·6; length of bulla 13·2 (in *cineraceus* 17); upper tooth series, exclusive of p.³, 14·5.

Hab. Mergui Archipelago. Type and five others from Ross Island; one from Tavoy Island.

Type. Adult male. B. M. No. 22-8-21-1. Original number 243. Collected 18 November 1921 by C. Primrose. Presented by the Bombay Natural History Society. Seven specimens.

This Flying Squirrel is clearly most closely allied to the Tenasserim *P. cineraceus*, but it is so much smaller as to demand specific distinction.

Two of the seven specimens are melanoid in colour, of a glossy blackish brown.

Callosciurus epomophorus tabaudius, subsp. n.

A dark insular form of the mainland *epomophorus*, the fore-back tending towards rufous.

Size as usual in the group. Colour essentially as in *C. e. davisoni* of S. Tenasserim, but darker throughout. Epaulets well marked. Nape and fore-back strongly suffused with cinnamon, which is not redder toward's

the sides as it is in some of the subspecies. Hind-back dark olivaceous (near "olive-brown"). Undersurface about as in *davisoni*, dark grey, with a more intense median line on the chest, and dull rufous groin-patches. Ears grizzled whitish, the usual slight tuft scarcely developed. Hands and feet grizzled iron-grey. Tail darker than in other subspecies, the black rings on the hairs broader; the hairs as usual ringed with buffy basally; terminal black tuft well defined.

Dimensions of the type, measured in the flesh :—

Head and body 242 mm.; tail 215; hindfoot 50; ear 20.

Skull, condylo-incisive length 53.

Hab. Tavoy Island, Mergui Archipelago.

Type. Adult female. B. M. No. 22-8-21-2. Original number 118. Collected 21 October 1921 by C. Primrose. Presented by the Bombay Natural History Society. Five specimens.

In this island subspecies the general colour is darker than in its allies, and the suffusion of the fore-back is both more uniform, and more tending to cinnamon, that of *davisoni* being more yellowish.

Whether it occurs in other islands than Tavoy we do not yet know, but Mr. Primrose did not find it in Ross Island.